

# Core brief

## Daily update

(8 November 2023, 10.15am)

Topics in this Core Brief:

- Help drive 'Home for Lunch' this winter
- COVID related absences
- Long service badges

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[GGC-Staffnet Hub - Home \(sharepoint.com\)](#)

## Help drive 'Home for Lunch' this winter



We'll be ramping up our message of 'Home for Lunch' to patients and their families as part of a wider set of initiatives to improve patient flow through our hospitals this winter.

'Home for Lunch' is an initiative that encourages hospital patients' friends and families to make the necessary arrangements for their loved ones to prepare to get them home before midday on their designated day of discharge.

When patients are well enough to leave hospital, they will be moved to a hospital discharge lounge or, where relevant, social space at around 10.00am. They will comfortably wait here for a friend or family member to assist them home.

The initiative will positively impact overall care at all stages of the patient journey and links with NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde's aim to discharge 40% of patients by noon.

Families are encouraged to make sure appropriate arrangements are in place in advance to collect loved ones from the lounge before 12.00pm.

### **How you can support**

- Be clear with families around when their family member is likely to be discharged
- Communicate clearly that your patient will be moved, if possible, to the discharge lounge
- Remind families to have their loved ones' items in order, such as transport, access to accommodation, and clothing to wear on the way home.

Commenting, Morag Gardner, Deputy Nurse Director, said: "We are incredibly grateful and thankful in advance to patient friends and families, as well as the staff, that support and encourage 'Home for Lunch' this winter. Making a few simple arrangements in advance can make a huge difference and enable the patient transition from hospital to home to be as seamless as possible.

"If a patient is well enough to leave hospital, the last thing they want to be doing is waiting around on the ward to go home. Equally, it is better for their overall recovery to be in the comfort of their home. This campaign enables that and, in doing so, we improve discharge efficiency and relieve pressures for overall hospital flow, which will become increasingly vital in the winter months."

### **COVID Related Absences**

Given changes in COVID guidance, the below provides a summary of information and also the current position from Scottish Government.

On 24 June 2022, [DL \(2020\) 21](#) was issued confirming that the majority of the temporary COVID related policies and variations to terms and conditions would end on 30 June 2022.

More recently, in August 2023, a [letter](#) from the Chief Medical Officer for Scotland was issued by Scottish Government which essentially advises that all COVID-19 routine testing has been paused, apart from for clinical diagnosis, outbreak management and patients being discharged to a care home or hospice.

The only significant difference between June 2022 and August 2023 guidance is that there is no requirement for staff to undertake LFD to confirm they are COVID positive or to confirm they are COVID negative to allow a return to work.

Instead, staff are advised to follow [NHS inform](#) advice, which has not changed. [NHS inform](#) also details symptoms that are consistent with COVID-19.

“Special Leave – Coronavirus Covid 19 Positive” is how the absence should be recorded for up to 10 days and does not count towards any absence triggers.

If the staff member is unfit to return to work from day 11 a new absence should be recorded under “Sick Leave – Covid Related Illness”. As this is sick leave, the staff member and absence should be fully supported in accordance with the Once for Scotland Attendance Policy.

## Long Service Badges

Thousands of staff have already signed up for their long service badges and you can get yours too!

There are four specially designed pin badges to recognise and celebrate the service milestones of 20 years, 30 years, 40 years and an exceptional 50 years.



All years working for the NHS count – so the scheme applies to staff who have worked for NHS GGC or any other Board or Trust within the UK, as long as you are currently on the NHS GGC payroll.

If you haven't yet signed up for your long service badge, then all you have to do to get your hands on one is complete the online form – it's that simple!

Visit: <https://www.nhsggc.scot/staff-recruitment/staff-benefits/long-service-staff-recognition-scheme/>

\*\*\*Staff are reminded to make sure their [personal contact details are up to date on eESS](#).\*\*\*

**It is important to share Core Brief with colleagues who do not have access to a computer.**

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